

45-1216

A-670

# File Spells, Routine

Cross File 706-C

Date 1/15/45

Those Eligible  
To Read the  
Attached

Subject: Routine Spills

By C. D. Corvett

Copy 1 J. E. Wirth

To J. E. Wirth

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David R. Wagner 4/24/95  
Submitting Information Officer Date

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## CLINTON LABORATORIES

DATE 1/15/45

1. J. E. Wirth
2. R. L. Doan
3. W. C. Johnson
4. K. Z. Morgan
5. C. D. Coryell
6. C. Files
7. R. Files

To J. E. Wirth

DEPARTMENT

FROM C. D. Coryell

DEPARTMENT

IN RE: Routine Spills.

This document consists of 1  
 pages and 0 figures.  
 No. 1 of 7 copies, Series A

Several members of the Chemistry Division with personal experience in hot operations are of the opinion that the hot spill problem is fundamentally not different from that of the radiation exposure problem. Both should not occur but both do occur frequently enough to cause considerable worry and in inverse proportion to the efforts expended to minimize hazards and optimize housekeeping.

In general and particularly in 706-C or in the hands of conscientious men, spills are self-penalizing by virtue of the difficulty and unpleasantness of the cleanup. Unfortunately, personnel exposure is not attended by such obvious immediate unpleasant consequences. I, therefore, wish to recommend that a mechanism be set up to report the occurrence of spills involving more than one microcurie of artificially prepared radioactive material (with a corresponding value of, say, ten millimicrograms of  $\text{Pu}^{239}$ ). All spills of this magnitude occurring in 706-A, 706-B, 706-C, 105 or elsewhere on the plant should be reported to Health Physics in any case because of the hazard to instruments and personnel. The form should provide for description of the method of the cleanup used and the effectiveness of the procedure. The occurrence of a spill in a man's work should carry no more and no less stigma to him and his supervisor than does the occurrence of a body exposure report.

If such a procedure should be instituted immediately, and be made fully effective, I anticipate that a great turmoil would occur but that this would be followed by a considerable improvement in technique and freedom from contention throughout the restricted area, and that all of us would benefit thereby.

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 C. D. Coryell

CDC:dd

*Spills should be reported to supervision - i.e., to whom Johnson designates. That person should report to Health Physics, JH*

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